



**U. S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Northern District of Illinois*

*Patrick J. Fitzgerald  
United States Attorney*

*Federal Building  
219 South Dearborn Street, Fifth Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312) 353-5300*

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PRESS CONTACT:  
AUSA/PIO Randall Samborn  
(312) 353-5318

**U.S. ATTORNEY FITZGERALD'S COMMENT ON RULING IN BENEVOLENCE CASE**

CHICAGO – Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, today issued the following statement regarding the Court's decision in the case of United States v. Benevolence International Foundation, Inc., and Enaam M. Arnaout, 02 CR 414 (N.D.II.):

“We respectfully disagree with the judge's ruling. The opinion relies on a technical interpretation of the perjury statute and has no bearing on the facts of the case. We will be filing a new criminal complaint this evening charging the defendants with obstruction of justice and making false statements for the same alleged conduct.”

Mr. Arnaout is expected to remain in federal custody over the weekend. A status hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Monday Sept. 16 before U.S. District Judge Joan Gottschall.

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